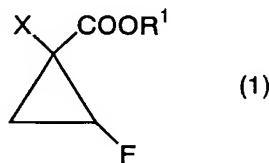


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of producing 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid ester, which ~~comprise~~ comprises allowing a compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom; and R¹ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group ~~consisting of~~ with an aryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms and an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; to react with a reducing agent in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst and a reaction solvent ~~excluding dimethyl sulfoxide.~~

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein X in the formula (1) is a chlorine atom.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein R¹ in the formula (1) is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 3, wherein the alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms is a t-butyl group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~
claim 1, wherein the phase transfer catalyst is a quaternary ammonium salt.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is tetrabutylammonium bromide.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is tetrabutylammonium chloride.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is trioctylmethylammonium chloride.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~
claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is sodium borohydride.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent represented by the following formula (3)



wherein M represents an alkali metal atom; R² represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, an alkoxy group or an acyloxy group, which alkoxy group or acyloxy group may be further substituted by a halogen atom; m is an integer of 1 to 4; n is an integer of 0 to 3; and the sum of m and n is 4.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction solvent is water alone, a diluted hydrochloric acid or an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution, or a combination of water and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of dialkyl ethers, toluene, benzene; ethyl acetate, tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile, N,N-dimethylformamide, alcohol, hexane, heptane, octane and cyclohexane.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the reaction solvent is a combination of water and a solvent selected from the group consisting of diisopropyl ether, methyl t-butyl ether, cyclopentyl methyl ether, toluene, hexane, heptane, octane and cyclohexane.

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction solvent is a combination of water, methyl t-butyl ether and heptane.

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 13, wherein the mixing ratio of water and the solvent is in the range of from 1:8 to 1:1.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to claim 15, wherein the mixing ratio of water and the solvent is in the range of from 1:4 to 1:1.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid ester is produced as a mixture of cis and trans forms, in a ratio range of cis:trans of 87:13 to 97:3.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 17, wherein said compound of formula (1) is a mixture of cis and trans forms, and the content of trans form in said mixture of 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid ester is less than the trans form content of said compound of formula (1), and the content of cis form in said mixture of 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid ester is greater than the cis form content of said compound of formula (1).

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 1, additionally comprising deriving 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid from the 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid ester.

Claim 20 (New): The method according to claim 19, additionally comprising optically resolving the 2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid to produce 1,2-cis-2-fluorocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by replacing “consisting of” with --with--, as suggested by the Examiner; and by inserting that the reaction is in the presence of --a reaction solvent excluding dimethyl sulfoxide--, as supported in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7, and particularly page 7, line 3, wherein dimethyl sulfoxide is disclosed as an applicable solvent when combined with water. Compare *In re Johnson*, 558 F.2d 1008, 194 USPQ 187 (CCPA 1977) (**copy enclosed**) (holding that a claim to a genus with a recital of a negative proviso that did not appear in the specification complied with the description requirement.) Additionally, the exclusion of dimethyl sulfoxide is supported in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2, wherein prior art which employs dimethyl sulfoxide is described as problematical because of it.

All the multiple dependent claims have been amended to depend on Claim 1.

New Claims 11-20 have been added. Claim 11 is supported in the specification at page 5, first full paragraph. Claims 12-16 are supported in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7, and the following paragraph. Claims 17 and 18 are supported in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9. Claims 19 and 20 are supported in the specification at page 9, first full paragraph.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application.